

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 02473 01 OF 02 240948Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05 /072 W
-----013917 241001Z /21

R 240910Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7023
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 2473

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN IRIAN JAYA

REF: (A) JAKARTA 1656, (B) 77 JAKARTA 7304

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING IRIAN JAYA
FEB 9-17 REPORT THAT LARGE NUMBER OF DANI TRIBESMEN WHO TOOK
TO FORESTS FOLLOWING APRIL-JUNE DISTURBANCES LAST YEAR ARE
NOW RETURNING TO AREA NEAR MISSIONARY LANDING STRIPS TO ES-
CAPE OPM TERRORISM, INCLUDING A MASSACRE OF 100-500 MEN,
WOMEN AND CHILDREN LATE LAST YEAR. THEY MAY EVENTUALLY RE-
QUIRE FOOD RELIEF. MISSIONARIES STATE THAT DISSIDENTS SEEM
TO BE RECEIVING TRAINING AND SOME SUPPLIES FROM PNG SIDE OF
BORDER. MILITARY ACTIVITY NOW APPEARS TO BE AT RELATIVELY LOW
LEVEL, AND AREA OF FREEPORT SULFUR COPPER MINE HAS WITNESSED NO
INCIDENTS SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER. SOME MISSIONARIES EX-
PRESSED CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIAN MILITARY'S LACK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JAKART 02473 01 OF 02 240948Z

OF KNOWLEDGE OF IRIAN CULTURES COULD BRING THEM LONG-TERM
PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO VISITED BIAK,
NABIRE, JAYAPURA, BOKONDIRI, WAMENA AND TIMIKA-TEMBAGAPURA
IN IRIAN JAYA FROM FEB 9-17 HAVE SHARED WITH US THEIR IM-
PRESSIONS AS REPORTED IN SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS. THEY ARE

NOT TRAINED MILITARY OBSERVERS AND THEIR COMMENTS ON THAT ASPECT OF SITUATION SHOULD BE REGARDED AS TENTATIVE UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN MILITARY ATTACHE, WHO IS TO VISIT AREA NEXT WEEK.

3. DANI TRIBESMEN IN BALIEM VALLEY AREAS OF BOKONTINI, TIOM, MANIT AND KILELA FLED TO FORESTS FOLLOWING APRIL-JUNE DISTURBANCES (REF B) AND UNTIL RECENTLY REFUSED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. ACCORDING TO NUMEROUS MISSIONARY SOURCES, OPM ELEMENTS IN LATE DECEMBER MASSACRED A LARGE NUMBER OF THESE FOREST REFUGEES APPARENTLY BECAUSE OPM BELIEVED THEY WERE THINKING OF RETURNING TO AREAS UNDER GOI CONTROL. ESTIMATES OF THOSE KILLED, INCLUDING MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, RANGED FROM 100 TO 500 BUT MOST MISSIONARIES TENDED TO SET NUMBER AT 200 DIVIDED ROUGHLY EQUALLY BETWEEN BOKONDINI AND MANIT AREAS.

4. OPM ATTACKS HAD OPPOSITE EFFECT TO THAT APPARENTLY INTENDED AS DANI HAVE BEGUN TO RETURN TO GOI CONTROLLED AREAS IN LARGE NUMBERS. OF ORIGINAL POPULATION OF 6,000 IN BOKONDINI AREAS, 2,500-3,000 HAVE NOW RETURNED AS HAVE 6,000 OF KILELA'S ORIGINAL 12,000 INHABITANTS, MISSIONARIES ESTIMATED. IN UN-DANI-LIKE FASHION, THEY HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THEIR FIELDS BUT HAVE SET UP VILLAGES AROUND THE MISSIONARY AIRSTRIPS. NUMBERS COULD RAPIDLY GROW TO 20,000. MISSIONARIES BELIEVE THEY MAY DRIFT EVENTUALLY BACK TO ORIGINAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JAKART 02473 01 OF 02 240948Z

SETTLEMENTS BUT IN MEANTIME SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGE COULD DEVELOP. (COMMENT: USAID DIRECTOR PLANS TO ACCOMPANY GOI DIRGEN FOR SOCIAL WELFARE TO IRIAN JAYA IN EARLY MARCH AND WILL INQUIRE FURTHER INTO SITUATION.)

5. INDONESIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS STATED THAT MAIN OPM ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN AREA STRETCHING 100 KMS ON BOTH SIDES OF NORTHERN PNG BORDER AS FAR SOUTH AS GREEN RIVER. THEY SET RUMKOREN FACTION AT 28-30 MEN AND PRAI FACTION AT 40-50. INDONESIANS CRITICIZED PNG FOR INADEQUATE PATROLING ON THEIR SIDE OF BORDER AND LACK OF COOPERATION IN ESTABLISHING JOINT PATROLS. MISSIONARIES INDICATED THAT GOI WERE CONDUCTING SWEEPS IN OTHER PARTS OF BALIEM VALLEY AND HAD ON OCCASION USED PAGAN EASTERN DANI AS "SHOCK TROOPS" IN OPERATIONS AGAINST THEIR TRADITIONAL ENEMIES, THE LARGELY CHRISTIAN WESTERN DANI. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CONFIRMED THAT TWO COMPANIES OF A DIPONEGORO BATTALION WERE OPERATING IN THE VALLEY BUT SAW NO EVIDENCE OF LARGE OPERATIONS OR AIR STRIKES AS OCCURRED DURING APRIL-JUNE FIGHTING. ALTHOUGH INDONESIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS IN JAYAPURA HAD ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE AUSTRALIANS TO DROP FREEPORT SULPHUR COPPER MINE FROM THEIR ITINERARY ON GROUND ROAD BETWEEN

TIMIKA AIPOUT AND TEMBAGAPURA MINE SITE WAS UNSAFE, THEY FOUND AREA HAD NOT WITNESSED DISSIDENT ACTIVITY SINCE LAST SEPTEMBER AND ROAD WAS PERFECTLY SECURE. FREEPORT OFFICIALS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT TWO GROUPS OF LOCAL MEN HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN TAKEN BY OPM TO PNG FOR TRAINING IN AUGUST AND NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR AND MIGHT RETURN TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 JAKART 02473 02 OF 02 240956Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05 /072 W
-----013994 241000Z /21

R 240910Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7024
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JAKARTA 2473

6. SOME MISSIONARIES FELT THAT INDONESIAN MILITARY HAD BEHAVED AS BEST AS COULD BE EXPECTED IN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT SITUATION WHILE OTHERS FELT THEY HAD RESORTED TOO OFTEN TO PUNITIVE OPERATIONS. MOST FELT THAT INDONESIANS HAD INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF DANI CULTURE, WHICH WILL HANDICAP THEIR LONG-TERM STRATEGY. LATEST MISBEHAVIOR ON PART OF INDONESIAN TROOPS WAS FEBRUARY "THEFT" OF FIVE WOMEN FROM VILLAGE OF ILEGWA (WHICH MIGHT BE REGARDED AS SIGN OF ACCULTURATION OF WRONG TYPE ON PART OF INDONESIANS).

7. MISSIONARIES STATED THAT HARD CORE OPM ORGANIZERS OPERATED IN GROUPS OF FOUR TO FIVE PERSONS AND THAT ONE GROUP MIGHT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE LAST YEAR FOR WIDELY SEPARATED INCIDENTS, JUDGING FROM BOTH TIMING AND COMMON TACTICS USED. ITINERANT HARD CORE HAS USED GROUPS OF LOCAL CADRES NUMBERING 40-50 EACH IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. MISSIONARIES IN NABIRE AREA SAID OPM CADRES HAD FIRST STIMULATED INTER-TRIBAL WARFARE AND

THEN ATTEMPTED TURN DANIS ON INDONESIANS. MISSIONARIES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JAKART 02473 02 OF 02 240956Z

NOTED THAT OPM HARD CORE WORE BLUE-GREY BERETS SUCH AS ARE ISSUED TO PNG CADETS, CARRIED PRINTED ID CARDS AND DISTRIBUTED PROPAGANDA MATERIALS PRINTED BY OFFSET PROCESS IN THREE DIFFERENT COLORS. THEY CONCLUDED THAT OPM MUST BE RECEIVING TRAINING, SUPPLIES AND FACILITIES FROM PNG SIDE OF BORDER. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OPM WEAPONS WERE WW II VINTAGE AND AMMUNITION SCARCE. AUSTRALIANS HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR OVERALL ESTIMATE THAT OPM IS NOT SERIOUS THREAT BUT NOW BELIEVE DISSIDENTS ARE MORE SOPHISTICATED AND BETTER COORDINATED THAN THEY HAD EARLIER PRESUMED.

8. COMMENT: FACT THAT AUSTRALIANS WERE PERMITTED ACCESS TO BALIEM VALLEY DENIED TO OUR STATE AND DATT PERSONNEL (LATEST TRIP REPORTED REF A WAS RESTRICTED BY INDONESIANS TO JAYAPURA) CAN PERHAPS BE ATTRIBUTED TO INDONESIAN INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN MAPPING PROGRAM IN THAT PROVINCE. WE PLAN, HOWEVER, TO FOLLOW UP AT SUITABLE INTERVAL WITH ANOTHER REQUEST FOR U.S. EMBOFFS TO VISIT AREA.
MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TRAVEL REPORTS, TRIBAL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JAKART02473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780085-1127
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780218/aaaaaomk.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JAKARTA 1656, 77 JAKARTA 7304
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN IRIAN JAYA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2d238d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014